Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 31 to page 2, line 4 as shown

below.

--In concatenative synthesis using a speech corpus, speech waveforms to be composed

are obtained by means of extracting sample speech waveform data from the prepared speech

corpus and concatenating them. The speech database (speech corpus) stores a large number of

speech waveforms of natural speech utterances and their corresponding phonetic ~~informatiion~~

information.--